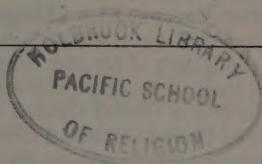


E CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEWS LETTER

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WINTER, 1961



**PRAY FOR HIM**

(Editorial from The Congregationalist, February 12, 1861)

We have been deeply touched by the artless sincerity and obvious earnestness (referred to on the previous page,) with which the President elect announced to the multitude who assembled in the gray of the morning to bid him farewell, as he left the happy home of his later years to make his perilous entrance to the White House, at his main dependence for any success in the arduous and complicated work to which he is called, is upon the gracious aid of Divine Providence, while he tearfully implored the prayers of those who have an interest at the throne of grace, that he may be richly endowed with wisdom, and courage, and all those graces which he needs not less for the nation, than for himself. It was obviously no merely dry and formal quest, preferred for the sake of propriety, or effect, but the outgushing of the deep and earnest feeling of his soul.

Commanded, as we are, to pray for all who are in authority, is there not a specialty resting upon all to pray, and to pray much, and fervently, for Abraham Lincoln; at taking the helm of state in the midst of perilous times, he may have skill to know and address and patience to perform his duty, his whole duty, and nothing but his duty? We have been greatly pleased in two or three instances since this request thus came public, to hear how cordially and tenderly it has been responded to by the people of God; and we have no doubt it will be so everywhere.

We cannot resist the conviction that a prescient God has raised up the man for the hour, and that the incoming President, if sustained, and cheered, and guided by theayers of all the good, will be able to work a work in our time, which will put our nation upon a platform of power, and dignity, and strength, and freedom, and prosperity, where it has never stood before, even in the days when Washington presided over its administration. Let it be not the fault of Christian negligence in prayer, if it not so!

## The United Church of Christ A century ago

A recent letter from Pres. J. E. Danieley, Elon College, encloses a copy of an article which appeared in *The Christian Sun*, April 29, 1859, W. B. Wellons, Editor. The original is in the Church History Room at Elon College. The article was discovered by a minister doing some research on the history of his own church. Thus local interest leads to the larger discoveries. The title of the article is *United Church of Christ*.

"We are the United Church of Christ,—the members thereof Christians—to the exclusion of all the names of faction and party, but not to the exclusion of the good of any party."

## A Marker on the Scrooby Road

Rev. Clifford O. Simpson, minister at Manchester, Connecticut, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Society, has long been concerned about appropriate historical markers in England, which he has often visited. In consultation with Rev. Ralph F. G. Calder, London, Minister and Secretary of the International Congregational Council, plans have been consummated for the erection of a suitable marker on the Great Northern Road that passed near Scrooby. The cost will be defrayed by an anonymous gift.

## Report on Forefathers' Sunday Observance

An increasing number of churches observed this historic occasion all over the country, with appropriate services and exhibits. In connection with the Forefathers' night of the Boston Congregational Club (1869) there was a historical exhibit sponsored by the Historical Society, an account of which appeared in the *United Church Herald* of January 26, 1961. The supply of appropriate material for such observances is well nigh exhausted. The preparation of a suitable folder for wide distribution will be undertaken when funds permit. Programs of local associations all during the year might well feature exhibits in connection with an historical address.

## Anniversaries Next Year

Among the 208 churches celebrating significant anniversaries this year are First Church, Cambridge, Mass. (325th), and First Church, Northampton, Mass. (300th). Six will celebrate their 250th anniversary, two the 200th, six the 175th, eleven the 150th and seventeen the 100th. Seventy-seven churches, chiefly outside of New England, were founded seventy-five years ago, and forty-four were organized in 1911.

## Charles Turner Torrey Manuscript Collection

This year, 1961, recognizes a century which has elapsed since the beginning of the Civil War. It is difficult, if not impossible, to appreciate the temper of the people which, like a great storm, had been gathering in power. Charles Turner Torrey, after the manner of present-day students aroused to social action, engaged in anti-slavery agitation while preparing for the ministry at Andover Theological Seminary. He had graduated from Yale in 1833. The remainder of his short life was given to the church and journalism. Two pastorates in Providence, Rhode Island, and Salem, Massachusetts, were brief and unsatisfactory. His time had been spent at meetings, in writing and fostering organizations, all aimed at the one passion of his life. The papers and letters of Rev. Charles T. Torrey in the Congregational Library deal chiefly with his imprisonment in Baltimore for aiding in the escape of slaves through the underground railway. One is a letter to the warden introducing Salmon P. Chase who also was a worker in the cause. There are letters from William H. Seward, Leonard Woods, Richard S. Storrs, Gerrit Smith and others. Almost all relate to the one theme. Those written earlier fanned the flames of the movement. The latter attempted to aid him in prison. Two years of confinement brought on a recurrence of tuberculosis which resulted in his death, a martyr to freedom, as he was thought of by thousands to whom the press related his story. Only thirty-three years of age he had been a leader in establishing an anti-slavery journal. He had served on a committee with William Lloyd Garrison but, differing from him in methods, turned with others to pursue his endeavors separately. His efforts were widely recognized and they received the support of many leaders, lay and clerical. A brief candle, his life rapidly burned away. Forty separate pieces in this manuscript collection represent primary source material dealing with the period a generation before the outbreak of the war.

JOHN A. HARRER

## Chaplains in Revolutionary War

By courtesy of Mr. Howard L. Applegate, Syracuse, N. Y., we have a list of chaplains who served from 1775-1783, excluding ministers who may have preached recruiting sermons or offered prayers for passing regiments. Included is a list of primary documents written by Congregational chaplains. The total number of American chaplains was 179, of which thirty-nine percent were Congregationalists, according to his report. The research by Mr. Applegate is greatly appreciated and may be borrowed. If some interested individual or patriotic organization will provide the modest cost of mimeographing for general use, the Society will be happy to have the work done.

## Year of the Bible

This year the English-speaking world will celebrate the 350th anniversary of the so-called Authorized, or King James Version of the Bible. In 1611, fifty-four devoted English scholars and churchmen assigned to the task by King James I were responsible for much of the beauty of this Version. However, much credit is also due William Tyndale and Miles Coverdale, who, less than a hundred years earlier, had through the original Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and Latin opened up the glories and truths of the Bible. It has been said "it was Tyndale who set the tone of simple earnestness, the plainness of speech and the economy of words that characterize so much of our Bible." Coverdale contributed naturalness and richness of harmony.

Dr. Luther A. Weigle, chairman of the committee that gave us the Revised Standard Version, calls the King James Version as "the noblest monument of English prose." The language of his version colors the thoughts of untold millions. It has become so much a part of our speech that we hardly pass a day without quoting from it, tho we may never have read it through. If we speak of the "signs of the times," or a "pearl of great price," or "the salt of the earth," or "a house divided against itself," it is the Bible we are quoting.

In addition to the anniversary mentioned above, another significant event will occur this year. On March 14, the combined presses of Oxford and Cambridge Universities will issue simultaneously in every English speaking country in the world a completely fresh translation, The New English Bible: New Testament. This will be followed at some future time by the Old Testament. The new translation will be the product of 15 years of work by nearly 70 of the world's greatest religious scholars. They have taken advantage of every advance in Biblical knowledge and every discovery about the original sources. It tries to do for today what the King James men did for the Englishmen of 1611 and what the Revised Standard Version committee did for our country in 1952.

ROBERT WOOD COE, Secretary  
Massachusetts Bible Society

## Data on the Union

The special committee of the Society on merger material continues to receive for careful filing the Congregational Library, valuable documents and reports which will be preserved for use by future historians. Mail to the Society at 4 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

## Annual Meeting, Providence, R. I.

The Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting of the Society will be held Friday, April 14, 1961, at 12:15 P.M. in the meeting house (1810) of the Beneficent Church (1743), Rev. Arthur E. Wilson, minister. The annual historical address will be given by the guest of honor, Professor Edmund Sears Morgan of Yale University. Topic: Ezra Stiles — 18th Century Congregational Clergyman. Adjournment at 2:30 P.M.

A special symposium for church historians will be held at 10:30 A.M., to which ministers and church clerks are cordially invited. Leaders: Dr. Thomas R. Adams, Librarian of the John Carter Brown Library, and Prof. Harland E. Hogue, Pacific School of Religion. Luncheon tickets \$1.50. Forward reservation to the Executive Secretary.

A special meeting of the Executive Committee is called for Thursday, April 13, 7:30 P.M. in the Beneficent Church, to consider important items of business.

JAMES F. ENGLISH, President  
VAUGHAN DABNEY, Executive Secretary

## World Congregationalism

Congratulations are extended to Ralph F. G. Calder and Glynnor John, Editors of "World Congregationalism" on the January issue with its new look and larger form. The periodical published in London by the International Congregational Council is an organ of fellowship, information and encouragement for the membership of the constituent churches in many countries. Yet the periodical stresses the values of our history, as the paragraph below indicates. It is taken from the editorial in the January issue.

"Moreover, despite the assertion of the late Henry Ford, history is not all bunk. It can teach us many things, not only about others but also about ourselves. Wider historical perspectives can show us more clearly than was seen in earlier times the grand directions the Spirit was really trying to take. Much fresh light is continually being shed on Church history and not least upon that wide and varied sweep of the Spirit which found expression in what we call the Reformation."

## BOOK REVIEW

American Christianity, v. I, 1607-1820, H. Shelton Smith, Robert T. Handy, Lefferts A. Loetscher (N. Y.: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1960). Probably the most significant volume ever published on American Christianity is now before us. What Phillips Schafraad dreamed of, and William Warren Sweet helped bring to pass, has now been brought to birth. Here are the definite theological documents and the seminal historical descriptions without which our spiritual origins can never be adequately understood. Besides the documents themselves, one-third of this ample volume is lucid interpretation and annotated bibliography.

The quality of this work is insured by the competence of these three scholars: H. Shelton Smith, Professor of American Christianity at Duke, Robert T. Handy, Professor of Church History at Union Seminary of N. Y., and Lefferts A. Loetscher, Professor of American Church History at Princeton Theological Seminary. This reviewer cannot speak too highly of the problem that was theirs: sifting the incredible quantity of valuable material; editing for us the most significant sections, giving theological and historical perspective for each phase of American Church History — all this has been accomplished with rare skill.

Here one finds that colorful Spanish and French Catholic missionary; the Puritan documents from Leyden to the Cambridge Platform; the left-wing traditions with Roger Williams and the Quakers; Jonathan Edwards and the Great Awakening; the Enlightenment and the tremendous struggle of the Revolutionary War; the Second Awakening; and both Catholicism and Protestantism on the Frontier in the early 19th century. And what is more: Volume II of this remarkable work will appear next year which will carry this study up to the very present.

HARLAND E. HOGUE  
Pacific School of Religion

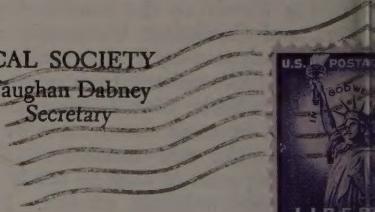
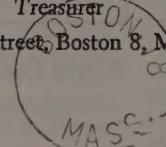
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